

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Docket No: Q78074

Masahiro MAEDA, et al.

Appln. No.: Unknown

Confirmation No.: Not yet assigned

Group Art Unit: Not yet assigned

Filed: October 20, 2003

Examiner: Not yet assigned

For: IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98**

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified) form and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem material to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

One copy of each of the listed documents, other than any U.S. patents and patent publications, is submitted herewith.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed: (1) No later than three months from the application's filing date; (2) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits (whichever is later); or (3) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action after filing a request for continued examination (RCE) under §1.114, and therefore, no Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is required.

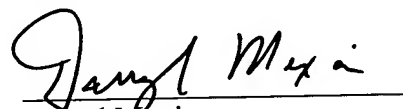
In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) for foreign language documents, Applicant submits the following explanations:

JP-B2-2-10423 and JP-Y2-2-3554 are cited and discussed on page 2 of the above referenced application. Also, JP-Y2-5-14282, JP-Y2-4-53650, and JP-B2-6-58560 are cited and discussed on page 3 of the above referenced application.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account. A duplicate copy of this paper is attached.

Respectfully submitted,


Darryl Mexic
Registration No. 23,063

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

DM/lck

Date: October 20, 2003

| | | | | | |
|--|---|----|---|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Substitute for Form 1449 A & B/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i> | | | | <i>Complete if Known</i> | |
| | | | | Application Number | Unknown |
| | | | | Confirmation Number | Not yet assigned |
| | | | | Filing Date | October 20, 2003 |
| | | | | First Named Inventor | Masahiro MAEDA, et al. |
| | | | | Art Unit | Not yet assigned |
| | | | | Examiner Name | Not yet assigned |
| Sheet | 1 | of | 1 | Attorney Docket Number | Q78074 |

| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|---|--------------------------------|---|
| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | Document Number | | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document |
| | | Number | Kind Code ² (if known) | | |
| | | US | | | |
| | | US | | | |
| | | US | | | |
| | | US | | | |
| | | US | | | |
| | | US | | | |
| | | US | | | |
| | | US | | | |
| | | US | | | |

| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | Foreign Patent Document | | | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Translation ⁶ |
| | | Country Code ³ | Number ⁴ | Kind Code ⁵ (if known) | | | |
| | | JP | 2-10423 | B2 | 03/08/1990 | | |
| | | JP | 2-3554 | Y2 | 01/26/1990 | | |
| | | JP | 5-14282 | Y2 | 04/16/1993 | | |
| | | JP | 4-53650 | Y2 | 12/16/1992 | | |
| | | JP | 6-58560 | B2 | 08/03/1994 | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |

| NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS | | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city, and/or country where published. | Translation ⁶ |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

| | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|--|
| Examiner Signature | Date Considered | |
|--------------------|-----------------|--|

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov, MPEP 901.04 or in the comment box of this document. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST. 3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to indicate here if English language Translation is attached.